

nine justices of the supreme court, in whose honor the reception was supposed to be given, were cooling their heels on the other side of the door.

The chief justice made a cutting apology for the delay, and every justice as he shook hands with the president did the same. The next day Chief Justice Fuller and Justice Harlan, the senior justice on the bench, went to the White House and had an interview with President Roosevelt. They did not do a thing to him. President Roosevelt explained that it was an accident, but the chief justice and Justice Harlan in their turn carefully explained that it was an accident that could not happen twice. President Roosevelt assured the chief justice and Justice Harlan that the catastrophe should not happen again. Since then no further catastrophes have occurred.

At the New Year's Day receptions at the White House an arrangement is made which puts the supreme court after the ambassadors, but the vice president and the cabinet have precedence over the ambassadors and diplomatic corps, so that the ambassadors do not have it all their own way. At 11 o'clock the vice president, the cabinet and the diplomatic corps follow each other in order. At 11:20 the supreme court, followed by all of the judges of the inferior courts, are received, followed by former members of the cabinet and American ambassadors who happen to be in Washington. Thus the status is established that foreign ambassadors have precedence merely as a courtesy to guests of the country, and the supreme court is given precedence over American ambassadors.

When the president entertains the supreme court at dinner no ambassadors are asked, and the dinner is strictly a judicial one. The chairmen of the house and senate judiciary committees and members of the committees are asked, the attorney general and other distinguished judges and lawyers. In seating justices of the supreme court at dinner, private or official, they take precedence of cabinet officers and of every one except the vice president. If there are two or more justices at a dinner they are given precedence in the order of their seniority on the bench.

The chief justice is addressed as "Mr. Chief Justice," and his card bears the simple inscription, "The Chief Justice." The associate justices are addressed as "Mr. Justice," and their cards bear the inscription, "Mr. Justice Smith," without the first name or initials.

As with ambassadors, persons must be introduced to the justices, but it is permitted to invite them "to meet" persons of distinction.

The salary of the chief justice is \$13,500, and that of the associate justices \$12,000. This, of course, leaves no margin for extravagant living, and unless a justice has a private fortune he is compelled to live modestly. Comparisons are often made between the splendid salaries of English judges and the modest stipends of the supreme court of the United States, but there has never been any difficulty in getting lawyers of the highest ability to accept a seat upon the supreme bench. The idea has always been that the honor is so great the emolument is secondary.

Justices are eligible for retirement on full pay at 70 years of age. There are two retired justices living—Justice Brown, who lives in Washington, and Justice Shiras, who lives in Pennsylvania.

The supreme court usually forms a close and intimate circle of its own. Its festivities consist chiefly in very serious dinners, with a solid menu and sound old wines. Until the introduction of bridge the jus-

tices were much addicted to solemn and prolonged games of whist, and to be asked to a supreme court whist party was a very great honor to a whist player.

The justices affiliate almost entirely with lawyers and judges and senators and representatives who have high legal reputations.

It is considered highly indecorous for a lawyer or judge to initiate any sort of campaign for an appointment to the supreme bench. As a matter of fact, it would ruin the chances of appointment of any judge or lawyer to make an effort to be appointed. It is generally understood that every judge of a high court in the United States is in a receptive mood, and senators and representatives are eager for appointments to go to their respective states. They are authorized by custom to present the merits of judges and lawyers of their states to the president, who is glad to have such information, but it is wholly gratuitous on the part of these senators and representatives.

The methods of reaching a decision are very thorough in the supreme court and require vast labor. When a case has been heard every justice writes out his individual opinion. They are then presented and read in conference. If the court is unanimous, a justice is selected to write a composite opinion. This is written and presented to the other justices and gone over carefully. Changes are frequently made and the opinion is rewritten many times and with utmost care.

#### COMPROMISING WITH GRAFT

Judge Kenesaw Mountain Landis of Chicago seems to be a man of admirable spunk. It is refreshing to see once in a while a judge who objects to being trifled with even by the government.

Three men were indicted in Chicago upon charges of having defrauded the government out of large sums of internal revenue. It is a serious offense, and conviction carries the possibility, or rather the certainty, of severe punishment.

One of the three was tried to a jury in Judge Landis' court and was convicted of having aided in defrauding the government out of \$100,000 in company with the other two men.

Then the other two got scared and proposed to settle by paying the government the revenues withheld by them. It reached the ears of the court that the treasury department was disposed to settle in that way.

The process suggested itself to Judge Landis as a revolting one, unjust to the one who had been convicted and not calculated to discourage such crimes.

Wherefore he delayed sentence of the culprit who had been convicted and openly declared that if the treasury department settles with the others he will turn the fellow loose.

Judge Landis is right about it. Those who defraud the government, or any private person, ought to suffer punishment.

Public officers who settle these cases and relinquish prosecution upon merely getting the money back are pursuing a dangerous policy.

It is questionable if they have any right to settle with criminals. It looks too much like compounding a crime.

Representatives of the government have been doing too much of this. It doesn't look good. It doesn't look honest.

It opens a way for suspicion of bribery of public officials by those who would escape prosecution for crime.

The people will applaud the stand Judge Landis has taken and will hope to see him stand pat on it.

Let's get some of the shameless

crooks and grafters in the penitentiary. It will have a wholesome effect.

It will not discourage graft to have it known that the culprit who is caught at it can escape worse punishment by paying back the graft.—Lincoln (Neb.) Star.

#### TAKES TWO

The editor wrote: "Dear Madame: The verses entitled 'The Kiss' are very clever. Can you assure me that they are original?"

The authoress answered: "Sir: Not quite. 'The Kiss' was a collaboration."—Cleveland Leader.

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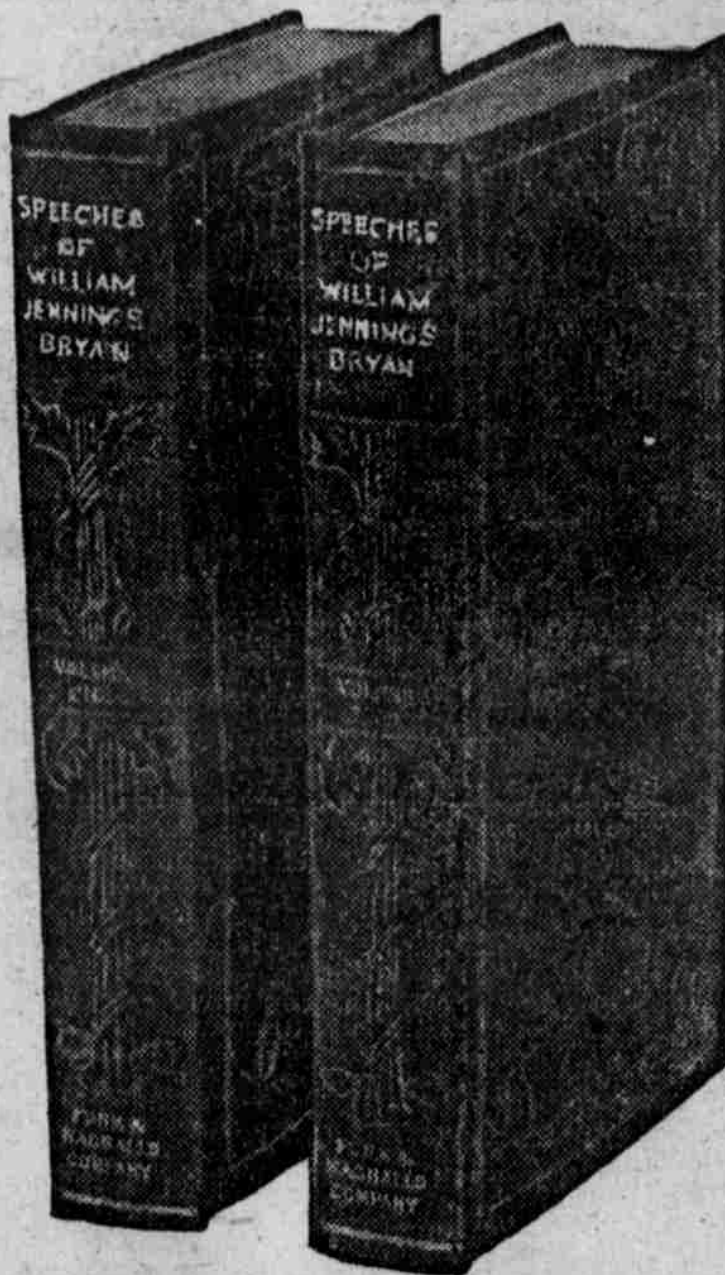
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